GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3933
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
FOREIGN EXCHANGE SERVICE
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to operate foreign exchange services from post offices;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government had invited open tender seeking a partner to operate the service;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Department of Posts is unable to handle the operation of foreign exchange services from its Post Offices;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make the services operational from Post Offices?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) The Department of Posts has entered into an agreement in March 2008 with the Centurion Bank of Punjab to retail their foreign exchange products like Foreign Currencies, Travelers Cheques, Travel Cards, Foreign Currency Demand Drafts and Wire Transfers to customers through select post offices of the country.

(c) & (d) The Department of Posts had issued a notice inviting 'Expression of Interest' with respect to introduction of Money Changing facilities in selected post offices in the country in July 2005. However, the exercise did not fructify.

(e) to (g) The scheme of retailing foreign exchange products like Foreign Currencies, Travelers Cheques, Travel Cards, Foreign Currency Demand Drafts, and Wire transfers to customers has commenced on a pilot basis in select post offices of the country.